



CHILDREN'S NEWSPAPER

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FOUNDED BY ARTHUR MEE

PRICE THREEPENCE

The World's Oldest Story of a Dog

FOUR puppy dogs of the Basenji breed, born in England, have lately been sent by air from London to Cairo, to become the property of Queen Farina of Egypt. They should feel quite at home, for experts say that Basenji dogs were common at the Court of the Pharaohs in the time of Moses and earlier, and that, dying out in Egypt, they survived in the Sudan, whence examples were brought to England some ten years ago.

Ancient Egyptian wall-paintings show that the Pharaohs had various breeds of dogs—greyhounds, house-dogs, and little petted lap-dogs with jewelled collars and other ornaments. Such was the veneration of the subjects of the Pharaohs for animal life that Anubis, one of the chief gods of Egypt, was represented by a resting dog, while another dog, fierce and up-standing, was the symbol of the god Ophois, and was blazoned on Egyptian standards borne into battle or carried by priests in religious ceremonies.

The Doomed Prince

It is thought possible that we may have derived our dogs in the first instance from Egypt. Certainly the first dog story in the world is Egyptian, written on papyrus nearly 4000 years ago; it is called The Doomed Prince. The hero is given a puppy that grows up to accompany him in all his travels and adventures. Marrying, he tells his wife that, according to prediction, his end will be caused by a serpent or a dog. She herself kills the serpent, then suggests to him that he should destroy the dog. The prince answers warmly, "I will not kill



SPIRIT OF SPRING

In the picture above a Cambridge jumper is clearing a high hurdle by the narrowest of margins; the lower picture shows a young lady jumping for joy at the sight of April blossom.

my dog that I brought up when it was little."

We can only trust that a happy ending for the story was found; but we shall never know, for the precious papyrus was damaged by a gunpowder explosion in a house at Cairo, and so is left imperfect.

We do not know what the Doomed Prince called his dog, and the first named dog in literature is Argos, the faithful hound of Homer's hero, Ulysses, who, after 20 years of wandering, returns disguised as a beggar to his island kingdom of Ithaca. Neither man nor woman knows him, but the aged Argos recognises him, and, although too feeble to crawl to him, welcomes him with lowered ears and wagging tail, and then dies content.

TAPPING THE EARTH'S ENERGY

THE deeper we go below the surface of the earth the hotter becomes the temperature. This heat is, of course, nearer to the surface in volcanic regions, and the Italians have long tapped it for power purposes.

At Volterra, some 40 miles from Pisa, Italian engineers captured intensely hot vapour from natural vents in the ground,

Rebuilding Iona Abbey

IN recognition of Scotland's help to Norway during the war Norwegian timber merchants have offered a gift of wood to roof parts of Iona Abbey.

The rebuilding of the Abbey was begun in 1939, but, owing to the war, little progress was made. Now Americans and Canadians are contributing to a restoration fund, and it is hoped that work on the building will proceed more quickly.

Iona is chiefly famous as the island on which St. Columba landed in 563 when he brought Christianity from Ireland to Scotland. Here he founded his celebrated monastery, which, alas, was reduced to ruins during the Reformation period.

and, passing it through water, evaporated the fluid, recovered the borax then left behind. Many a fine piece of English pottery is glazed with that borax, of which we used to import great quantities.

Again, between the two wars, the Italians hit upon an even more audacious scheme. They bored into the earth and led away the super-heated steam that escaped, to furnish energy for great power stations in the vicinity.

This Italian venture may point the way to possible developments in our own land. Professor W. W. Watts has told a gathering of his fellow scientists that while we are haunted by the fear that a limit to deep mining for coal will be imposed by high temperature, that very heat may provide energy as valuable as the material which would otherwise be mined. Moreover, he foresaw the day when the gas that we dread from certain coal seams might, if it could be exploited, give a return equivalent to that of the coal itself.

Meanwhile, little Volterra has to its credit a feat as profitable as it was audacious.

RHODESIA REMEMBERS A PIONEER

Exploring the Zambesi River With David Livingstone

THE North Junior School at Bulawayo, in Southern Rhodesia, was recently named Baines School, after Thomas Baines, one of the first white men to travel in this African land when it was dominated by the warlike Matabeles.

In naming the school, the Southern Rhodesian Minister of Internal Affairs said:

"No pupil who passes through Baines School can ever go astray if he takes as his rule of life the words of this great Englishman who said: 'I must either be justly proud of my success, or not ashamed of my failure.'"

He lived from 1820 to 1875 and was born at King's Lynn. His father was a master mariner, and

his grandfather had commanded a whaler, so Thomas inherited a love of the sea and adventure. Once when he was a boy he and his brother built a boat in an upstairs room, but found when they had finished it that it would not go through the door! Nothing daunted, they took out the window and, rigging block and tackle, lowered it to the street.

But Thomas Baines loved drawing and painting as well as ad-

One of the first white men ever to see the Victoria Falls, which the Royal Family are visiting this week, was Thomas Baines, an artist-explorer from King's Lynn. He published a set of drawings of the Falls as early as 1865.

venture. As a boy he heard of a ship on fire at sea, and wanted to paint a picture of it; so he made a complete model ship and set it on fire.

In 1842 he arrived at Table Bay in South Africa, a young artist with little money. He supported himself for some years by odd jobs such as decorating coaches and by selling his sketches and paintings. But the great northern wilderness was calling him, too, and he made many journeys through trackless places.

In the Kafir War of 1851 he was appointed official artist on the staff of Major-General Somerset. He sketched battle scenes, carried a rifle, and often fought alongside the soldiers.

In 1853 he returned to England and was appointed artist and storekeeper (oddly assorted jobs) to an expedition to North Australia, then practically unknown. There, in the Gulf of Carpentaria, he made a voyage of 700 miles in an open boat.

Back in England he was appointed to go with David Livingstone's expedition to the Zambesi River in 1858.

After exploring with David Livingstone, Baines returned to Cape Colony, and in 1862 he arrived at Walvis Bay, in South-West Africa, with Chapman's expedition which aimed at crossing Africa from west to east.

Mosi-oa-tunya

The little party endured amazing hardships in their long trek through desert and bush, until on the evening of July 22, 1862, they heard a noise like the pounding of surf on the seashore. It was the voice of what the natives called "Mosi-oa-tunya"—the smoke that thunders—Victoria Falls, and next day, to the delight of Baines' artist soul, he saw at the end of a valley the "smoke" in all its fabulous beauty. They found on a tree David Livingstone's name and the date, 1855.

In 1868 Baines was leading an expedition in Matabeleland, searching for gold, and thus he was one of the small band of white men who were starting to open up this great region which was to become the prosperous state of Southern Rhodesia.

The Southern Rhodesian Government has recently published Thomas Baines' Northern Goldfields Diaries. A set has been presented to King's Lynn by the Southern Rhodesian Government which is to receive, on permanent loan from King's Lynn, some of Baines' pictures.

He died at Durban as he was planning another expedition. Of this brave, simple-hearted man it was truly written: "He was a man to whom the wilderness brought gladness and the mountains peace."



The Statue of Eternal Light

THE first thoughts of Rear-Admiral R. E. Byrd on arrival in New Zealand from Antarctica were of a visit to Christchurch 20 years ago when, as he said, he travelled there to gaze on his statue and pay homage to the memory of his boyhood hero, Captain Robert Falcon Scott.

"The statue of eternal light," as he described it, is still a shrine, and Byrd produced from his notebook the text of a one-

minute speech he had made at the foot of the Scott statue nearly a quarter of a century before—a speech that was reprinted by the United States Education Department and circulated in all American schools.

Admiral Byrd received another link with the immortal explorer on his arrival in New Zealand for the eighth time when he was presented with Captain Scott's walking-stick.

What the World Requires of Germany

THE first phase of the Moscow conference has ended in a useful exchange of ideas between the Foreign Ministers of Britain, America, France, and Russia on what to do with Germany. But, as we write, no final decisions have been taken.

On the urgent advice of Mr Bevin the Ministers have been skating, as it were, over the major problems of Germany today, they have discussed and thought over time and again what could be done and what ought to be done with that unhappy country.

This was a happy plan indeed, and today we know more about what is in the minds of the four Allied Governments than ever before. After discussions on disarmament and de-Nazification, talks were held about the future constitution of Germany, the main problem being: Shall Germany be a federation or a centrally-governed State?

Britain and America favour rather a federation. They see that unlimited power given to a central administration in Berlin could quickly convert Germany into a militaristic state. It would be different in a federal Germany with the provinces, or Laender, having a good deal to say in the running of the country.

Russia, on the other hand, would rather see Germany run as a centrally-governed nation, Mr Molotov declaring that if they created a federal Germany the militarists would at once start trouble-making, rousing the nation to change the constitution in order to make Germany stronger. But he added that Russia was in favour of something resembling the Weimar Constitution which existed before Hitler's regime. This constitution was midway between a

federal and centralistic one. As Mr Marshall, the American Secretary of State, rightly pointed out, although the Allies may be giving this constitution various labels they do agree on many points.

A compromise is therefore possible. This is not surprising as two years of occupation have taught the Allies some elementary facts of Germany's needs. Above all, we have learned that the form of Government will really matter little if Germany is allowed to starve.

A Prosperous Germany

The greatest importance, therefore, must be attached to the Moscow discussions on the economic future of Germany. It has become clear that all the Allies are anxious to see Germany in some sort of shape that would enable her to contribute, through hard work, to both her own future prosperity and the prosperity of the countries she had wronged. This could be achieved through an abolition of the economic barriers now existing between the various zones, but there are differences on how to treat such a reasonably prosperous Germany. Mr Bevin thought that, when unified, Germany should turn out as many goods as possible in order to pay for the heavy occupation costs and then for her food imports from overseas. This, said he, should be the first charge.

M. Bidault saw the matter in a different light: Why should Germany be allowed to make so much which could be made into dangerous weapons? Let Germany export as much coal as she could, and let other people make steel. Let us write down this obligation in the Peace Treaty, he suggested. Further, to avoid unemployment in Germany, M. Bidault thought that the Allies ought to consider the possibilities of German emigration. The shortages of coal and labour now hampering French recovery obviously influenced his proposal.

Russia and Reparations

Mr Molotov, however, disagreed with M. Bidault and was closer to the British point of view. He, too, would like to see Germany produce as many goods as possible. He was not in favour of Germany becoming just a big coal exporter. But he differed from Mr Bevin and Mr Marshall in one important point. He thought that reparations in the form of German goods in payment for the tremendous damages done to Russia by the German Army should come first. This would mean, of course, that Germany would not have enough goods to pay for food, and so our own expenditure to give Germany food would mount still further—a grim prospect for Britain.

Yet, in spite of these disagreements, there can be little doubt that no one will want now to kill the goose that may, sooner or later, lay golden eggs.

A UNITED ASIA

IN an impassioned speech at Delhi, Pandit Nehru, the Indian leader, has made a plea for a united Asia.

He was speaking at the opening of the Asian Relations Conference, which aims to unite all the peoples of the world's biggest continent in all matters affecting them racially, socially, culturally, and politically. He made it clear that this was no pan-Asian movement to threaten Europe or America, or anybody, and, indeed, that it was a great design for promoting world peace and progress.

Pandit Nehru referred to the growth of western imperialism during the past two hundred years, and said that one of the notable consequences of European domination of Asia had been the isolation of the countries of Asia from one another.

"That story belongs to the past," he said. "Strong winds are blowing all over Asia. Let us not be afraid of them, but rather welcome them, for only with their help can we build the new Asia of our dreams."

Dunces Who Have Made Good

THE Parliamentary Secretary to the Minister of Education has been revealing a secret to the scholars of the Ebbw Vale Grammar School. His friend, Mr Aneurin Bevan, the present Minister of Health, failed as a boy to pass the school's entrance examination! Mr Bevan is, then, another of the one-time dunces who later made good; but he is in illustrious company.

The great Duke of Wellington was one of the dullest of boys, causing his despairing mother to exclaim: "I don't know what to do with my awkward son Arthur"; and a statesman, seeing him later, said to himself, "Let who will get on in the world, you certainly never will."

The immortal John Wesley was another boy who seemed to his father a hopeless dullard. "Why trouble to teach him a thing twenty times?" the elder Wesley asked his wife, who replied, with a mother's loving, patient wisdom, "Because the other nineteen would be wasted."

WHEN SCHOOL-DAYS ARE OVER

THE new Minister of Education, Mr George Tomlinson, has called on all local education authorities to prepare their schemes for Further Education, that is, the continued education of young people after they leave school. For when we leave school we have merely completed the groundwork on which we should always continue to build.

In the past, however, most of us have lacked facilities to continue to develop our minds, and bodies. The whole scope of the Government's plans for remedying this unhappy state of affairs is outlined in the Ministry of Education's Further Education pamphlet (Stationery Office, 2s).

The fullest possible training of body, mind, and spirit is work of vital importance for the future well-being of our nation, so that all who have high aims for themselves and their fellow citizens should study the proposals in this book.

WORLD NEWS REEL

AND STILL GROWING. The population of Auckland, biggest New Zealand city, has grown from 57,600 to 263,000 since this century began.

A floating dock capable of accommodating ships up to 30,000 tons left Bombay recently on a 1500-mile journey to the Mediterranean. The voyage will take 45 days, seven of them to pass through the Suez Canal.

Two thousand invitations to America have been sent to Princess Elizabeth by an American girls' magazine which held a competition for the best letter.

GENEROUS, AS USUAL! The Australian Red Cross offered their complete stock of food, clothing, and medicine in London to the victims of the floods, and have promised shipment of £50,000 worth of clothing within three months.

In January Polish miners produced a bigger output of coal for each man-shift than miners of any other country in Europe.

The longest big strike that the U.S. has had—at the Allis-Chalmers motor works—ended after 327 days.

In her new Constitution Italy is described as a Democratic Republic founded on work.

Sir Robert Howe, who has succeeded Sir H. Huddleston as Governor-General of the Sudan, is the son of an engine-driver.

AGAINST THE POLICE. At Ottawa recently a shooting contest was held between the Mounted Police and a team of Civil Servants. The winners were the Civil Servants, whose top scorer was a woman.

Cape Town citizens have launched a national fund to mark Princess Elizabeth's birthday, April 21, which will be celebrated when she is actually staying in the capital of South Africa.

The Pinega, which arrived last month at Glasgow with iron ore from Narvik, was the first Soviet ship to bring a cargo to the Clyde since the war.

WHAT, NO PEAT! Because of the fuel shortage Eire has announced that firewood is to be rationed.

A search for oil is to be made in Australia. Dr Frank Reeves, a well-known American petroleum geologist, will make investigations of selected areas.

HOME NEWS REEL

HOMEY. Shetland islanders are to give Princess Elizabeth a 21st birthday present of hand-woven tweed and hosiery.

Over 3000 firms will exhibit their goods at the British Industries Fair, opening in London and Birmingham on May 5.

An exhibition of over one hundred French tapestries is on view at the Victoria and Albert Museum, London, until May 31.

PRODIGY! At a London Junior Orchestra concert at the Royal Academy of Music on March 28 a Mozart piano concerto was played by a seven-year-old girl from Iceland—Thorunn Tryggvason.

Recruiting for the Territorial Army will begin on May 1 instead of April 1, as previously announced.

The Battle of Britain Chapel in Westminster Abbey will be opened by the King on Thursday, July 10.

REWARD. From each colliery in Britain two miners with the best attendance and output record will be nominated for selection by the Coal Board for free tickets for the Scotland v England Football Match at Wembley, or the Rugby League Final, as a token of appreciation.

YOUTH NEWS REEL

FLOOD RESCUE. During the recent floods a Windsor Boy Scout paddled his canoe through the front door of a cottage to an elderly couple marooned on the stairs, and ferried them to a waiting "duck."

Three hundred New Zealand Boy Scouts are coming from the Dominion to the World Jamboree which is to be held near Paris.

Scouts at the World Jamboree in France this summer are to have a daily newspaper of their own. It will give news, photographs, and cartoons, and, though mainly in French and English, there will be many articles in other languages.

FOR YOUTH LEADERS. The Ministry of Education has arranged for Regional Courses in Organised Camping to be held in Sussex, Essex, Leicestershire, and Wales. Youth leaders and organisers who are interested should write to the Secretary, Ministry of Education (Short Courses), Lennox Gardens, London, SW 1.

Uniforms and equipment provided by British companies of the Boys Brigade have at last been received by the Singapore Battalion after being "lost" during transit. The battalion, suspended during the war, is making good progress.

The Man Who Made Mulberry

SIR JOHN WATSON GIBSON, who was responsible for the famous artificial harbours, called Mulberry harbours, which were used for the Allied landings on the Normandy coast, has passed on.

He once described how he made up his mind that this stupendous feat of civil engineering could be carried out in Britain. At first it seemed a fantastic notion. Artificial harbours were to be constructed in our little island and then towed across the Channel to the French coast.

At a Cabinet meeting he was asked if it could be done, and the meeting was adjourned while he made up his mind about it. Sir John went outside and sat quietly in his car for half an hour. He calculated all the concrete, steel, men, equipment, and facilities that would be required to build an artificial harbour. At first he thought it impossible. Then he remembered that the Americans had said the break-water for the harbour could only be made in the United States. That decided him; he went back and told the Cabinet that Mulberry harbours could be built here in Britain.

For his leadership in this stupendous task he was knighted in 1945. Britain has lost a grand patriot and a great engineer.

The Children's Newspaper, April 12, 1947

Heligoland For the Birds Again

With the massive German fortifications of Heligoland utterly destroyed that rocky islet in the North Sea will doubtless regain its full recognition as a bird-watching station. For Heligoland is on the line of migration. It was one of the earliest, and it was there that a German naturalist named Gatzke gained worldwide celebrity by his observations and writings. He was a pioneer, and his publications, received at first without question, influenced the opinion of all naturalists, and astonishing mis-statements that he made are still repeated in hosts of the world's books on birds.

Later research, while giving credit for a lifetime of original work, has revealed the absurdity of his report that Arctic blue-throats fly the 1600 miles from

Africa to Heligoland in nine hours, and that curlews, godwits, and plovers fly at four miles a minute.

He described the flight of migrating birds, their species, and numbers, travelling at enormous heights, filling the pitch-black sky when, of course, no man could see. But he was so dogmatic, so fiercely sure of himself, and withal so very famous, that his statements long held the field without successful contradiction. All migration throughout the world, he maintained, was conducted similarly to the migrations that he watched from his tiny land-speck in the ocean, which has been shown to be nonsense. Part of his teaching is discredited, but he remains a famous man, and we really owe him much.

A NEST IS A PRECIOUS THING

THE CN recently made an appeal to all not to disturb birds' nests in any way.

Many young Nature lovers are anxious just to peep into a nest, having no wish to take the eggs, but, we are asked to say, the very act of approaching a nest is apt to disturb the immediate surroundings, and so reveal its presence later on to a natural enemy of the bird, such as a stoat or carrion crow.

So, young naturalists and others, please keep away.

A NEW PLASTIC

DETAILS have recently been given in a British Patent of a new plastic composition which will last much longer than certain other types of plastic.

When a moulding powder is made, a filler (or substance to give bulk) is normally added, and for general purposes sawdust is ordinarily suitable. However, a phenolic or urea type of plastic filled with sawdust is not strong, and, when dropped on concrete, will crack and break easily. As a filler instead of sawdust this new plastic uses nylon in various forms, such as thread or fabric. The resistance of a moulding made from such a material is very high and its electrical properties are also good.

This material should considerably save waste in manufacture and extend the life of plastic articles.

Studying Shakespeare in His Home-Town

THE Governors of the Shakespeare Memorial Theatre have again arranged a series of public lectures and discussions to take place throughout the whole of the festival season, from April to September. Once again they will be held at Mason Croft, the Stratford-upon-Avon Centre of the British Council, who will share with the Governors the responsibility for the series. The list of speakers includes the names of many distinguished dramatic critics and professors of English literature, and the price of admission to each lecture is one shilling.

Many special courses of study will also be arranged for the direct benefit of visitors from overseas, principally teachers of English literature and language. Other courses will be for teachers from European countries, and the peak of the season in Shakespeare's home-town will be reached in August with the second Conference of Shakespearean Scholars from many parts of the world.

THE RAIDER

A CN reader at Longleat, in Wiltshire, writes that during the cold spell last month a woodpecker was seen sitting on a beehive. The bird had penetrated the roof, and was busy eating the bees!

CEREMONIAL COMEDIANS

THE smallest public railway in the world had two famous guests of honour the other day, when the final section of the Romney, Hythe, and Dymchurch Railway was reopened to the public.

The reopening ceremony, which coincided with this railway's twenty-first birthday, was performed by the film comedians Stan Laurel and Oliver Hardy.

They arrived in a tiny coach (which massive Oliver Hardy must have entered with difficulty!) drawn by a tiny engine with a cowcatcher, like those seen in America.

Those who witnessed the event say that Laurel and Hardy performed the ceremony like true dignitaries!

PAINTING THE PARISH

IN order to raise funds for his church, Canon F. H. Campion, Rector of Tillington, Sussex, whose hobby is painting, has turned this talent to good use. He has offered to paint a picture of any part of the parish, any of the farms, farm-houses, cottages, or gardens for 10s apiece. He has already received numerous commissions from farmers and villagers, and is now faced with the problem of finding the time to complete them.

Britain's Babies

THERE is good news about our babies. More are being born and fewer are dying in their first year.

More babies were born in England and Wales last year than in any year since 1923. For every 1000 of them born, only 27 died at birth, compared with 38 per 1000 born before the war; and those who died within one year of their birth were 43 for every 1000 born compared with 46 in 1945, and 52.8 before the war.

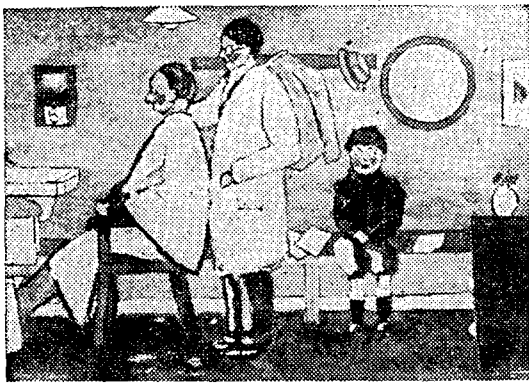
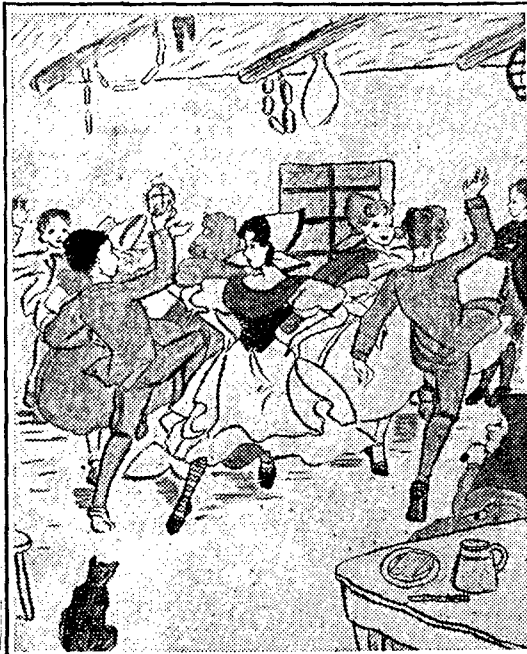
Last year's birth rate of 19.1 for every 1000 people in our population was 4 per 1000 more than in the last year before the war.

The mothers of 1946 fared well, too. The number of those who died was only a little over a third of the pre-war figure.

These encouraging figures show how medical science is progressing.

YOUNG ARTISTS

These two pictures by 13-year-olds were among the prize-winning entries at the exhibition of children's work by the Royal Drawing Society. "The Dance," by Fiona Moust of Edinburgh, captures the movement of dancing figures; while "The Barber's Shop," by D. Dack of Nottingham, shows keen observation of an everyday scene.



The Smoke That Thunders

A mile wide and 350 feet high, the Victoria Falls on the Zambesi in Rhodesia are the most impressive natural spectacle on the route of the Royal Tour. Only a section of the falls is shown in this picture.

Photograph by courtesy of South African Railways

Junior Lawn Tennis

MOST welcome in this season's lawn tennis tournaments are the open Lawn Tennis Championships for boys and girls below the age of 18—the first of their kind. The competition opens on Monday, April 14, on the courts of the Loughton Club, Essex, and the events are open to boys and girls from any county. The tournament will last until Saturday.

These championships offer a great opportunity to very young players anxious to gain experience in competitive lawn tennis because there is no low age-limit; in the British Junior Championships no boy or girl under 15 may compete.

BIRD FLOWN BY HELICOPTER

A ROCK-HOPPER penguin at the Wellington Zoo, in New Zealand, has the distinction of being the first of its kind to land by helicopter. It was transported by an American helicopter to the Dominion from the US coastguard cutter North Wind, and the curator of the Wellington Zoo carried the penguin throughout the journey.

The bird is one of two which the zoo is getting from Mr J. E. Perkins, biologist of Admiral Byrd's expedition, in exchange for two black swans for the Washington Zoo.

A Fragment of Edinburgh

SOME weeks ago the CN reported a good-will gift from the people of Dunedin in New Zealand to Edinburgh.

The Scottish capital is now to return the compliment, and her gift will be a fragment of the Castle Rock mounted on silver and placed on a pedestal of oak from the Castle Banqueting Hall. On two sides of the pedestal there will be inscriptions, and the other sides will bear the coats of arms of the two cities. Mr Pilkington Jackson is the designer.

This gift will cement the close bond of friendship which links these two namesake cities.

THE LONDONER'S ROAD SENSE

THERE is a happy sign that Londoners' road sense and discipline is on the upward grade. In February the total of 40 people killed in road accidents in the Metropolitan area was 17 fewer than in January and 18 fewer than in February 1946.

The total casualties for the month showed a marked improvement—1428 as compared with 2182 in January and 2263 in February 1946.

Relative Air-Speeds

WHEN Lord Brabazon of Tara, the holder of Britain's No 1 pilot's licence, presented the Britannia Trophy to Group-Captain E. M. Donaldson the other day for the most outstanding performance by a British aviator during the past year, he recalled that the air speed record in 1906 was won by M. Santos-Dumont at about 25½ miles an hour, whereas the new world record set up by Group-Captain Donaldson in September 1946 was 616 miles an hour. From a plane resembling a box-kite to a Gloster Meteor IV, jet-propelled—this is the measure of the advance made in flying in the last 40 years.

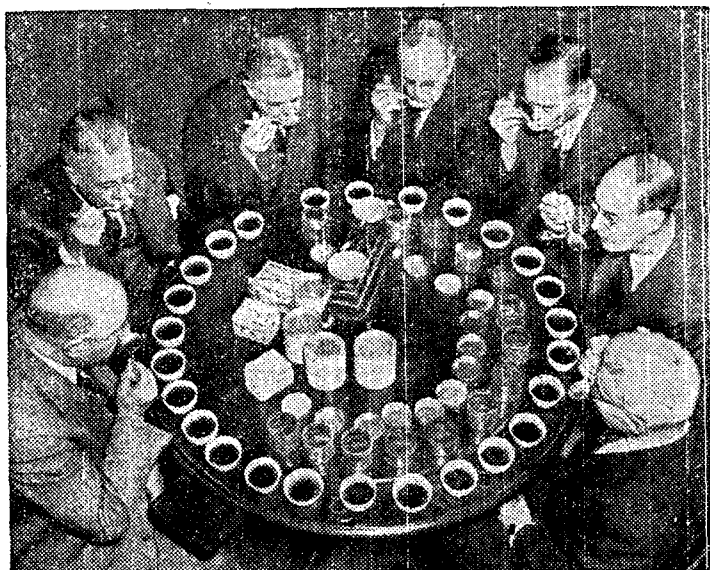
HIGHLAND DRAMA

ONE of the strangest dramas of our exceptionally hard winter occurred in the Scottish county of Angus. There, at the foot of one of the hills in Glen Clova, lay a giant snowball containing a whole herd of deer!

A great mass of snow collected high up the hillside on a ledge under which the deer were sheltering from the storm. Suddenly the ledge gave way under the weight, and the snow engulfed the helpless animals. Down the slope the great snowball careered with the deer in the centre, increasing in size as it went. After crossing the frozen River South Esk it eventually came to rest at the other side of the glen.

Shortly after the thaw set in 25 bodies of the unfortunate animals could be counted, and others were still engulfed.

A NICE CUP OF TEA



To some people all kinds of tea taste the same, and there are even a few who could not say after a "nice cupper" whether they had been drinking Indian or China. But the gentlemen above, at what looks like an outside tea-party, can detect different kinds of tea with the certainty of a dog telling the difference between his master's coat and someone else's. For they are professional tea-tasters, and here they are engaged in carefully testing the respective qualities of different sorts of tea, and probably deciding the difficult question of which will blend with which.

The tea-taster is an important expert in the business of producing the tea we buy in the shops. For all the big firms of tea-blenders depend entirely on the judgment of their tea-tasters

in deciding how to blend the different grades of tea in order to produce one that will satisfy their customers.

In Britain today it is generally the aim of firms to produce a blend of tea that will be equally suitable for districts where the water is hard and those where it is soft. The best qualities of some kinds of tea are brought about by soft water, while others need hard water. Our tea firms aim at finding a blend which is a happy medium.

The craft of tea-tasting is one which takes years of study to acquire. The tea-tasters rely not only on the taste of the tea, but also on its aroma, colour, and richness. And, as the picture shows, they capture the flavour by small, thoughtful sips from spoons, not by big, thirsty gulps from cups!

A Matter of Thousands of Millions

How old is the Earth? One recent estimate, by a professor of geology in London, gives it as 3350 million years. On the other hand, a conference of American scientists at Princeton University gives a mere 2000 million years as the Earth's age and says that the first mammals appeared here 70 million years ago.

Candidly, we find it difficult to grasp the full meaning of such colossal figures. It is something beyond even the "stupendous" minds of Hollywood. But

a writer in the American magazine *Natural History* has reduced the story of the Earth to proportions which can be easily understood. He has made a précis of the Earth's story, as it were, and begins its life with the opening of this present century.

Proceeding on these lines the Earth passed through its long stages of glowing incandescence, fire and lava, and cooling-down, and by the spring of 1934 it was ready for the first forms of life. Later the fishes appeared, and in April 1942 the Age of the giant reptiles began. By August 1945 the dinosaurs had disappeared and the warm-blooded mammals were here.

Man was still a long way off. In fact, the first of our certain ancestors appeared only this morning, at 3.45. At 11 o'clock this morning Ancient Egypt was in its heyday, and, assuming that by now it is noon, Columbus discovered America just 24 minutes ago.

To restore these events to their rightful places in Time it would be necessary to slow down our time-reckoning almost fifty-million-fold.

But we will leave them where they have been placed, and console ourselves with the thought that the war which has only just ended was all over in a matter of seconds!

Home-Made Wardrobe

LINEN goods being in such short supply, it is good news that East Anglia hopes to grow thousands of acres of flax this year. This is an extension of an industry inspired by King George V.

To say, as it has been said, that this is a new crop for England is erroneous. What we have been seeing is a revival, not a new departure. In bygone times laws were passed making the cultivation of flax compulsory in both England and Scotland, and Flemings were brought to this country to teach our ancestors how best to grow the flax and convert its fibre into linen. But wool continued the greatest asset, so flax-growers, neglected and opposed, chose fields as far as possible from the wool centres.

The Value of Flax

From the seeds of the flax we derive the best oil for paints and varnish, and when the oil has been extracted the remainder, compressed into great cakes, forms a valuable food for cattle. When flax was most generally grown here the making of linen became a cottage industry, the fabric furnishing supplies for bed, table, and the family underwear. That was the time when practically all clothing was home-made. Home-produced wool became home-made cloth and outer clothing; home-tanned leather formed home-made boots, to accompany the home-made linen from home-grown flax. However, we were always excelled as flax-growers by other countries, especially by Russia. Our pre-war needs of flax represented the growth of 500,000 acres, of which Russia formerly supplied three-quarters. During the war Northern Ireland had about 125,000 acres under cultivation, supplying some 20,000 tons of fibre a year, or six times more than in 1938.

But the home-made wardrobe continued to appear. Less than 50 years ago an English visitor to Scotland asked his Cromarty Firth boatman if he wore anything of home manufacture. The man replied that his tweed suit and cap, his stockings, his boots, and his shirt, had all been made at home in the evenings by his wife and himself.

Interlude



Students of Mercer's School, Holborn, the City of London's oldest school, recently celebrated its 500th anniversary with a performance of Bernard Shaw's play, *St Joan*. Here one of the soldiers has a drink of milk off-stage.

The Editor's Table

CHALLENGE TO A CITY

LONDON this week receives the challenge of the Christian Commandos—the first stage of a planned campaign to bring Christianity vitally into the lives of the millions who live in and around the great city.

The strategy of the Commandos is to bring the Christian religion to the people instead of awaiting the people to come to hear about religion. The Christian church is on the offensive, invading the places where London's people live and work to tell them of the Good News which is the Gospel of Christianity.

What is the message which the Commandos will carry into the offices, workshops, and factories of the great city? Simply this. There is a world-need for human life to be put on a Christian basis so that greed, selfishness, hatred, and suspicion may be purged from human affairs. The challenge of Christianity is to put the spirit of Christ in the place of self-seeking, uncontrolled ambition, and the desire for domination. That spirit makes for friendship, understanding, tolerance, and kindness towards the other man, and a willingness to be of service to one's neighbourhood and nation.

CHRISTIANITY is, however, much more than all this. It links man with God in a more intimate manner than any other religion, and it makes God so real in the person of Jesus Christ that Christians believe that in seeing Him they are seeing God.

The things that are right with London are many: her bravery in battle, good humour in adversity, kindness of heart. But the wrong things also reside in London, and the challenge of the Commandos is to cast them out and to allow the good to triumph.

In carrying this challenge to London, Christian Commandos believe that a change of heart in millions of Londoners would be a miracle resounding not only through Britain but throughout the world. But that miracle, they believe, must begin where the individual Londoner works and lives. That is why the message will be taken to offices, canteens, factories, and the homes of the people. Thousands of small "home" meetings will bring the challenge to London into the homes of London, setting out the claims of Christianity to be a personal, family, and public faith.

CHRISTIAN Commandos have taken for themselves the proud name of the men who dared to do the most dangerous wartime jobs. In this attack all the Commando spirit is needed, and the C.N. wishes the campaign crowning success.

The Home Office For Children

A REFORM which is very much overdue is soon, it is hoped, to become law.

Mr Attlee told Parliament the other day that there is to be a new and enlarged Children's Branch of the Home Office which is to be responsible for providing a home background for children deprived of a normal home life. In the past this responsibility has been shared between the Ministries of Health and Education and the Home Office.

With one authority responsible and an increased number of regional inspectors, more efficient watch will be kept on foster homes and institutions throughout the land.

County Councils and County Borough Councils will be the local authorities directly responsible, with children's officers to see that these unfortunate boys and girls are provided with a proper home background.

Thus the Curtis Report of last year is already beginning to yield results, and the Home Office becomes a Home Office.

The End of a Mission

HISTORY will have a place of special honour for Lord Wavell, who has handed over the Viceroyalty of India to Lord Mountbatten.

This grand soldier and leader of men had probably his hardest task as the King's representative in India, a high office in which he showed vision and energy.

He strove to break the political deadlock between Hindus and Moslems, and that he failed to do so was due to no lack of effort on his part.

Lord Wavell was no stranger in a strange land, for he spent many years of his youth in India.

"You have hard, dangerous, and difficult years ahead, but you will overcome them," he said in his farewell message to the people of India.

All will hope that Lord Wavell's final words will come true—and soon.

Under the E



PETER PUCK
WANTS TO KNOW

If bird-fanciers have
flights of imagination

DESIGNERS of household goods were told to put themselves in the shoes of the British public. But the public were using them.

SOME conjurers make up their own tricks. Wonder if they use vanishing cream.

PRICES of secondhand 1946 cars have reached a new peak. But they will not be sold on points.

A MAN has 4000 pieces of pre-war china stored away. Why not stick them together?

Say it With Flowers

MANY a home has no garden; or, if there is a little patch, perhaps it is being used exclusively for the growing of vegetables. In such cases window-boxes can provide the missing joy of a few bright flowers.

Now is the time to get busy. If a few bright flowers are displayed on the window-sills in front of the home; pleasure will be provided for passers-by, as well as for the household.

We all want to express happiness in the springtime and the summer. Let us say it with flowers, even if it is only through a modest window-box.

A United Nations Man

"HE was loved by many generations of his countrymen and by citizens of the United States of America."

These words appear on a memorial tablet to Sir John Dill, unveiled recently in the Chapel of his old school, Cheltenham College.

Field-Marshal Sir John Dill died in 1944 at Washington while serving as Senior British Representative on the Combined Chiefs of Staff, the body which directed the Anglo-American war effort.

Sir John, a Christian gentleman and a good citizen of the United Nations, was held in such high esteem in the United States that a resolution was passed in Congress recognising his outstanding services to the United Nations. Furthermore the American Government accorded him the high honour, granted to no other foreigner, of a State burial at Arlington, the National Cemetery.

"He was loved by . . . citizens of the United States of America."

SPRING'S CARPET

WHEN daisies pied, and violets blue,
And lady-smocks all silver-white,
And cuckoo-buds of yellow hue
Do paint the meadows with delight.

Shakespeare

Editor's Table

A HOUSEWIFE found two pennies inside a potato. No wonder growers tell us there is money in potatoes.

FASHION designers must always keep one jump ahead of the public. They should design more jumpers.

A HOUSEHOLD scale for measures has been laid down by the British Standards Institute. Someone will take it up.



THE new taxis expose the driver to draughts. Someone should give him a draughtboard.

THINGS SAID

ALTHOUGH there may be a tedious period, the sun will shine, and shine brightly, on Britain again. *Lewis Douglas, US Ambassador*

WE must set an example to Europe of the virtues and virility of free discussion and the other liberties we cherish, and show that they lead, under God's guidance, to a healthy way of life and high achievement. *Anthony Eden, MP*

DEFEATISM is not the only thing that can lead to disaster. Another is Micawberism—the trusting to luck, not facing the facts . . . not cutting one's coat according to one's cloth. *Lord Beveridge*

REGIMENTATION of children in schools must be avoided. Education should be an adventure. *Minister of Education*

WE cannot afford to waste a single ton of coal by sending its heat up the chimney instead of into the room, or the oven, or the water tank. *Sir Stafford Cripps*

An Unhappy Story

ONE of the unfortunate legacies of the war is the high mortality among young children from tuberculosis. The shortage of houses and overcrowded homes are the chief causes.

With the greater use of mass radiography by the school medical services it should be possible to recognise early cases. There is urgent need, too, for more clinics and sanatoria for children.

Consumption ravaged our forefathers. But in this age of science the dread enemy should be defeated once and for all.

LET'S

LET's bring to little lives a ray of sunshine;

Let's share another pilgrim's load and pain;

Let's seek, and know, the wondrous joy of finding.

The more we lose ourselves, the more we gain.

Let's spend to make some weary soul the richer.

The more we spend, the more love comes our way,

And love will prove to be our richest treasure.

Love turns life's darkest night to brightest day.

Let's straighten out some life that may be crooked;

Let's knit and sew and plant; let's build and make;

Let's live so others see in us The Master.

Let's share with them our wealth for Jesu's sake.

Let's speed the Golden Rule throughout the nations.

The very best we have and are, let's give.

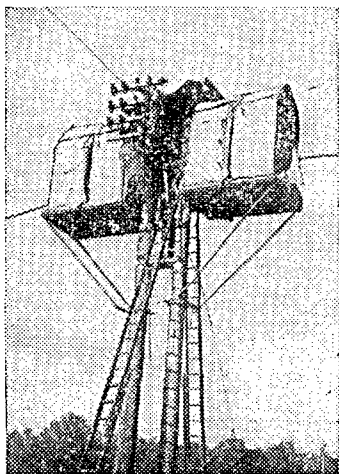
Let's serve mankind; for, all mankind are brothers—

It's only those who serve who really live. *T. B. Gleave*

JUST AN IDEA

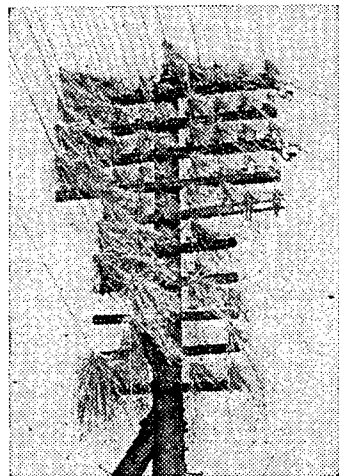
A good man's life often teaches more than his words.

THE WIND IN THE WIRES



THE wild weather of recent months has meant a bad time for the G.P.O. linemen who maintain the overhead wires. Snow, ice, and gales have broken thousands of lines, which have often had to be repaired under difficult conditions.

The first picture shows an ingenious method adopted near



Newbury, Berkshire, to shelter linemen from wind and rain. Two of the little tents which are used when work is being carried out on cables under the pavements of city streets have been erected at the top of telegraph poles. The second picture illustrates the force of a recent gale which demolished hayricks at Puckeridge, in Hertfordshire, and blew hay on to telegraph wires.

A Seaside House For Youth

THE Youth Hostels Association have acquired a fine house on the rugged north Cornish coast. Tregonnan House on Treynon Cove, near Padstow, is a modern house of some 14 rooms, standing in two-and-a-half acres of ground. It was accepted by the Treasury in payment of death duties on the estate of Mr W. I. Gunn, and the Chancellor of the Exchequer decided that the Y.H.A. was the most suitable body to which to hand over the property.

Tregonnan House is about three miles north of the famous Bedruthan Steps, a place of towering cliffs, wonderful caves, and rocks of curious shapes, presenting a scene that was described by Arthur Mee as "one of the most remarkable and most unforgettable in our little treasure island."

Chancellor, Bishop, and Cardinal

APRIL 11 this year is the 500th anniversary of the death of Cardinal Beaufort, one of the most illustrious men of his time. As ambitious as he was able, he walked with kings and wielded great power; but throughout his life he acted in his country's best interests and was devoted to the cause of learning.

Henry Beaufort was born in 1377 at Beaufort Castle in Anjou, his parents being John of Gaunt (son of Edward III) and Catherine Swynford. He was half-brother to King Henry IV and uncle to Henry V.

After being educated, probably at Oxford and certainly at Aix-la-Chapelle, he took holy orders, royal influence enabling him to obtain quick advancement in the Church. In 1398 he was enthroned as Bishop of Lincoln, an office he was to hold with distinction for the next six years.

In those days it was customary for the King to appoint his chief ministers from among his relatives and the clergy, and it is, therefore, not surprising to find that the highest office in the realm, that of Chancellor, was granted to the King's half-brother in 1403. Henry Beaufort was then only 26.

The Cathedral-BUILDER

In 1404 William of Wykeham died and Beaufort became Bishop of Winchester. To succeed such a well-loved and able prelate was no easy task and Henry Beaufort's fame has largely been overshadowed by that of William of Wykeham. Nevertheless, it was Bishop Beaufort who completed the building of the beautiful cathedral, and it was through his efforts also that the Hospital of St Cross was re-established.

On the accession of his nephew, Henry V, over whom he wielded great influence, Beaufort was recalled to his old office of Chancellor, and in the five years between 1416 and 1421 he lent the King no less than £20,000 out of his own pocket to finance the war with France. He was then considered to be the richest man in the kingdom.

In 1424 Henry Beaufort became Chancellor for the third time, and in 1426 he was created a cardinal. The following year he went to Germany as papal legate in an attempt to start a crusade against the Hussites,

but his mission was a failure and for a time he fell out of favour with the Pope.

Henry V of Agincourt on his death bed in August 1422 had nominated Cardinal Beaufort as one of the guardians of his



Henry Beaufort

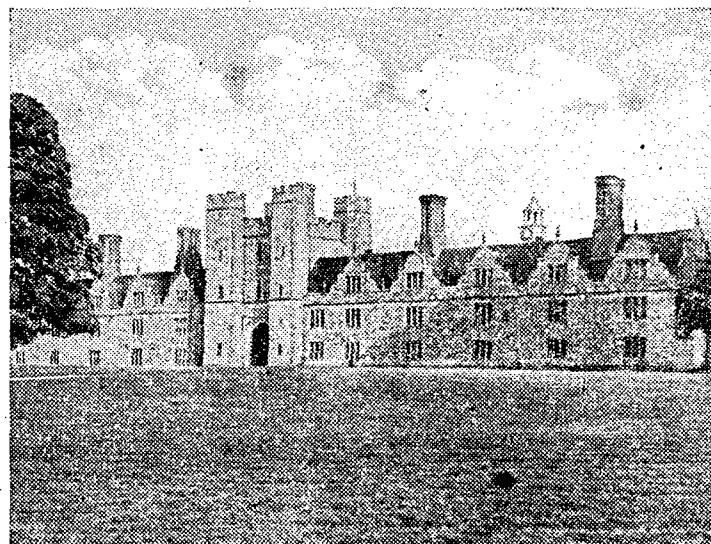
infant son; and it was Beaufort who in 1431 took the ten-year-old Henry VI to Paris and crowned him King of France, thus bringing into effect the marriage agreement of Henry V and Catherine of France, which was intended to bring an everlasting peace between the two nations.

Cardinal Beaufort's last years were clouded by antagonism with his political opponent, Humphrey, Duke of Gloucester, the King's uncle and Protector. On April 11, 1447, Henry Beaufort died at Winchester and was buried in his cathedral. Although his fame both as bishop and Chancellor has faded, the story of his life devoted to the service of both Church and State remains an inspiration.

Truth For Germans

FOR the first time in many years German schoolchildren and students will be able to read books denied them during the Hitler regime. To enable the younger generation in Germany to obtain a true picture of events during the Hitler regime and to prevent any growth of Nazi sympathy, a campaign has been launched by German Educational Reconstruction to supply schools and universities in the British zone with books and pamphlets.

Classics by non-Aryan authors, political and economic works, text books, and books condemning Nazism, all of which were previously destroyed or banned, are to be sent shortly.



THIS ENGLAND Fifteenth-century Knole House with its great park, at Sevenoaks, Kent, has been presented to the National Trust by Lord Sackville

FOOTBALL AND EASTER

Quite apart from Easter Monday being a Bank Holiday, there is a special reason why it should be a favourite day for football fixtures.

From earliest times the ball and ball games have been features of Easter festivities.

The ball was supposed to represent the sun, which, our forefathers declared, took three leaps when rising on Easter morning, as a sign of joy at the resurrection from the dead of Our Lord. Surprising as it may seem, a kind of football or ball game was actually played in church during the Easter services in the Middle Ages. In the Catholic Church of long ago bishops, priests, and choir boys all joined in a curious celebration. The priest would toss the ball to a chorister, who, in his turn, would toss it to another, and so on, until all the officiating clergy and choristers had taken part in the sedate game.

Their game over, the players would gather for a meal. The important dishes at these feasts were huge gammons of bacon and tansy pudding. Tansy pudding was a highly-spiced dish, the herbs and ingredients of which represented the bitter herbs used at the Passover, in accordance with the Jewish law.

Another Hour of Daylight

SUMMER TIME was thought of, and actually put into practice, long before the time of William Willett, who is generally regarded as the originator of the Daylight Saving idea.

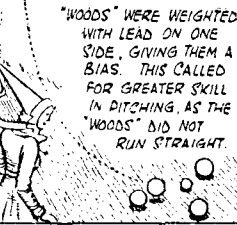
A correspondent recently wrote to the Sunday Times quoting an extract from the Francis Letters, which record that on July 6, 1801, Harriet Francis, daughter of Sir Philip Francis, while staying with some friends at a house near Farnham, wrote and told her sister that "the clocks here are advanced an

EVERYONE HAS HEARD THE STORY OF HOW SIR FRANCIS DRAKE WAS PLAYING BOWLS AT PLYMOUTH WHEN HE RECEIVED NEWS OF THE APPROACH OF THE SPANISH ARMADA IN 1588.



BUT THE GAME WAS OLD, EVEN IN DRAKE'S TIME. A ROUGH FORM OF BOWLS WAS PLAYED IN NORMAN DAYS, WHEN ROUND STONES WERE ROLLED AT A CONE.

BY THE FIFTEENTH CENTURY THE CONE HAD GIVEN WAY TO A SMALL BALL (NOW KNOWN AS A JACK), AND WOODEN BALLS HAD REPLACED THE STONES.



"WOODS" WERE WEIGHTED WITH LEAD ON ONE SIDE, GIVING THEM A BIAS. THIS CALLED FOR GREATER SKILL IN DITCHING, AS THE "WOODS" DID NOT RUN STRAIGHT. THE MODERN BOWL IS MADE OF LIGNUM VITAE, A VERY HARD WOOD OBTAINED FROM THE GUAIACUM TREE, OF THE WEST INDIES. BIAS IS NOW EFFECTED BY SLIGHTLY SHAVING ONE SIDE OF THE RUNNING SURFACE. THE GAME IS CONTROLLED BY THE INTERNATIONAL BOWLING BOARD, FOUNDED IN 1903.



Games & Their Beginnings

Bowls

SAINT OF MOTOR-CYCLISTS

THE Pope has announced that the Madonna of Castellazzo Bormida, a small village in Italian Piedmont, is to be the patron saint of all motor-cyclists. This Madonna has for years been known here as "the Madonna of the Centaurs," and motor-cycle races have been held in her name.

Why Centaurs? Presumably the reason is the likening of the motor-cyclist sitting on his machine to the centaur of classical legend, who was really two creatures in one—half-horse, half-man.

Most of us remember Chiron, the ancient centaur, who was the wisest of all created beings, and who sang of the birth of Time, of the heavens and the dancing stars, of the ocean and the ether, of fire and the shaping of the wondrous earth.

It was Chiron, too, who taught many of the great heroes of the legends. Aesculapius, god of medicine, learned the virtues of all healing herbs from him; Jason left his school to seek for the Golden Fleece; and Hercules to perform his Twelve Labours.

If motor-cyclists will keep in mind the illustrious figure linked with their new patron saint there may be more wisdom and fewer accidents on the roads.

Britain's Trees

THE Forestry Commission plans to secure five million acres of woodland in Britain during the next 50 years. To gather information for the project 50 tree experts of the commission have undertaken the enormous task of card-indexing the whole of Britain's woodlands.

It is estimated that it will take two years to complete their researches, but when they have finished the commission will have a record of every type of tree in Britain—its age, condition, rate of growth, and expected life.

UNDER THE SEA TO FRANCE

ARE we to have a Channel Tunnel linking England and France?

The question has come to the fore again by the formation of a group of MPs who are to prepare a report on facts revealed by a committee which in 1930 investigated the possibilities. The group will try to interest Parliament and hope to rouse similar interest in France.

The idea of a Channel Tunnel, to begin near the Shakespeare Cliff at Dover and emerge near Calais, is over a century old. But

it was not until 1876 that agreement was reached between the two countries. Companies were formed in England and France, and it was decided to construct two parallel tunnels, each to carry electric trains. An experimental tunnel, 2000 yards long, was bored from each side, with the intention that the engineers from France and England should meet in mid-Channel. Powerful and persistent as was civilian opinion in its favour, the work extended no farther, being arrested on the score of national safety. It was work on the Channel Tunnel that revealed the great Kent coalfield, of whose existence no one had dreamed.

The war of 1914-18, with its German danger to the Channel ports, and the second world war, with its actual capture of those ports by our enemies, increased the fears of those who opposed the Tunnel. Now interest in the scheme is being revived.

This scheme to link England with continental Europe recalls an even more sensational idea—none other than that of linking Europe and Africa by tunnel! It was a Spanish scheme, which proposed the excavation of a

tunnel near Gibraltar to run under the Straits and emerge on the Moroccan coast. The scheme, suggested by Lieutenant-Colonel Jevenois, a distinguished Spanish artillery officer, was taken over by the Spanish Government, and the work was begun, experimentally, by the sinking of a shaft in 1929 on the Spanish coast 15 miles west of the Rock of Gibraltar.

Although the Straits are little more than eight miles wide at the narrowest point, the curving route chosen involved a tunnel 20 miles long, at a depth of 1500 feet below sea level, and 200 feet below sea bottom. By this means the engineers hoped to avoid water too deep and the hazard of sharp rocks projecting through the formation through which a tunnel must be cut.

The Spaniards hoped to co-operate with our Channel Tunnel Company, pooling knowledge and experience, and possibly machinery for building. But since that shaft was sunk on the Spanish shore much water has passed through the Straits of Gibraltar, and events have occurred in Spain to delay the scheme for many a year.

IVANHOE—Sir Walter Scott's Great Historical Romance, Told in Pictures

Robin Hood's men craved pardon of Richard Lionheart. That he readily granted, for he knew they had been driven to become outlaws by the oppression of the barons. Then Ivanhoe arrived and, after he and Richard had shared a woodland feast with the yeomen, they went to Coningsburgh Castle for Athelstane's funeral. There

Richard hoped to reconcile Ivanhoe and his father. Cedric had wanted Rowena to marry Athelstane, but now there seemed no reason why she should not marry her lover, Ivanhoe. But Ivanhoe had not yet heard what had befallen his benefactress, Rebecca, the beautiful Jewess who had skilfully healed his wounds after the tournament. Bois

Guilbert had taken her to the Templars' Preceptory at Templestowe, hoping to hide her there. His plan was frustrated by the arrival of the Templars' fanatical Grand Master who ordered that Rebecca should be tried as a witch. He believed she had used her black arts to get Bois Guilbert into her power.



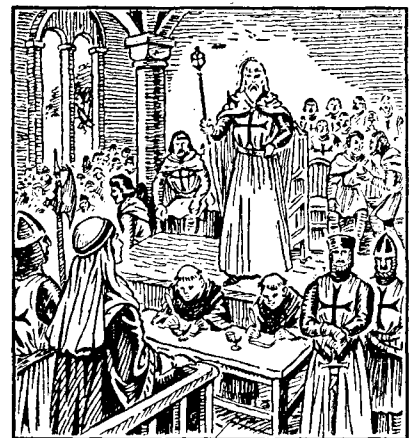
In a small room in Coningsburgh Castle, Richard, after revealing himself to the astonished Cedric, persuaded the stern old Saxon to forgive his son. But Cedric declared that Rowena must complete two years mourning for Athelstane before she could marry Ivanhoe. Otherwise, he said, the ghost of Athelstane himself would come back and stand accusingly before them.



Suddenly Athelstane himself appeared! He said he had been only stunned. The treacherous monks guarding his coffin hoped he would die so that they could inherit half his estate. When he recovered consciousness they chained him in a dungeon, intending to bury an empty coffin. But he had freed himself and escaped.



Cedric then spoke of Rowena, but Athelstane, turning to Rowena, replied: "The lady Rowena cares not for me—she loves the little finger of my kinsman Wilfred's glove better than my whole person. Cousin Wilfred of Ivanhoe," he said, "in thy favour I renounce and abjure..." But Ivanhoe was on his way out of the room, for he had just heard what was happening to Rebecca.



In the great hall of Templestowe Castle, Rebecca stood before the bigoted Grand Master of this religious order of Knights Templars, Beaumanoir. Instead of blaming Bois Guilbert for forcibly bringing innocent Rebecca here, Beaumanoir now accused Rebecca of being a sorceress and casting a spell over the knight.

Was Rebecca judged innocent of the charge made against her? See next week's instalment

The Children's Newspaper, April 12, 1947

Newcomers to the Children's Zoo

By Our Own Correspondent

THE 1947 edition of the Children's Zoo is likely to be as popular as ever, if not more so. The Exhibition Hall at Regent's Park is renowned for its educational features, and I expect many of you will remember the enchanting Mouseland, Toad Hall, Chick Village, and similar amusing novelties.

This season the hall contains an even more ambitious feature. This is a 20-foot-long section of a submarine—the Nautilus, as the lifebuoys hanging on the walls of the "vessel" tell us.

In reality, the Nautilus is an aquarium consisting of eight large tanks of freshwater and tropical fish. Each tank, which



Miss Higgins with Charles and Irene

is brilliantly illuminated, is viewed through a bronze-lined porthole, and the effect is as if one were viewing the seabed itself, including sunken vessels, and even a diver at work.

Another new feature is a large outdoor "owlsery." Hitherto, owls have always been kept in small cages in the Exhibition Hall. This season the birds will have much more space. The "owlsery" is equipped not only with tree-branches but also with darkened perches where the birds can hide should the sun become too bright.

"Rotten Row" riding track, first instituted last season, has been renovated, and this year a new steed makes its appearance there among the ponies and donkeys. This is an Exmoor wild pony. The animal, a pure-bred and well-trained creature named "John Fry," is on loan from Miss Mary Etherington, of Amberleigh.

Exmoor ponies are a fast-vanishing breed, and their numbers, never recently very great, have been decreased still further by the hard weather. Miss Etherington, a local champion of these animals, has fought hard to save the race from extinction, and it is in the hope of popularising the breed that she is lending "John Fry" to the Zoo.

Many animals, both wild and domestic, have been assembled in the enclosure, and there are some interesting baby animals among them. Some of these are very mischievous, particularly Charles and Irene, the baby Alpine goats born in the Zoo recently. "Charles and Irene are as inquisitive as cats," Miss Valerie Higgins, the Children's Zoo supervisor, told me the other day. "To satisfy their curiosity they will stick at nothing. They open gates, climb seats, push open windows—in fact, go almost everywhere."

C. H.

DIAMONDS FROM THE SKY

AN enormous meteorite has fallen from the sky on Taiga, in the neighbourhood of Tomsk in Russia, and has created, we are told, a vast hole in the frozen soil, from which steam issued as from a cauldron.

Meteors, most of them minute in size, are constantly reaching the earth, a moderate estimate of the total being 12,000 tons a year. But so great is the velocity at which they enter our atmosphere—as much as 45 miles a second—that the majority are burnt up through the friction created as they pass through the air. They contain practically nothing that is not found on the earth, including aluminium, iron, nickel, and silicon, and—romantic thought—an occasional diamond!

Meteors, small bodies that people suppose to be "shooting stars," circulate beyond our atmosphere in such immense numbers that a swarm of them may be hundreds of miles wide and hundreds of millions of miles in length. All our native iron, with its addition of nickel, found loose on the earth, is supposed to come from these visitors, for, except minor quantities in certain basaltic rocks, our iron is found only in ores.

The new arrival in Russia should soon be the subject of investigation and report, a distinction not general with the greatest of the meteorites. Peary, the Arctic explorer, took one weighing over 36 tons from Greenland to New York. When it fell, no one knows; and another, of unknown antiquity, weighing over 50 tons, lies untouched at Bacubirito, in Mexico. Northern Argentina has a giant which was for four centuries deemed as fabulous as the marvels of the Arabian Nights' stories.

The Spanish conquerors in 1540 were told, but did not

believe, that the natives tipped their spears and arrows with iron from a distant meteorite. They never saw the meteorite, and succeeding generations forgot its exact locality. The meteorite became a legend, and was spoken of as the Iron Inn. The Argentine Government decided in 1884 that the monster, wherever it might lie, should be the boundary between the Gran Chaco and the province of Santiago del Estero.

Ten years ago the long-lost visitor from the skies was rediscovered—13 miles from the spot imagined to be its resting-place. The legend of 400 years suddenly became established fact; here was the arsenal from which the native warriors had drawn supplies for their losing battle with the Spaniards when Henry VIII was King of England.

Perhaps the greatest of all meteorites of which evidence survives on earth is that titanic mystery of the Canyon Diablo, Arizona. At this spot, in what distant age science knows not, there fell a meteor shower covering an area five miles in diameter, where iron fragments varying from an ounce to half a ton have been found.

Scientists, testing sections of this metal, found their tools blunted and ruined. Chemical experiments furnished the clue: the meteorites contained true diamonds, which no metal can cut. They were formed when the meteorite had the temperature of the electric furnace.

How many such "sky-diamonds," we may wonder, has the Russian meteorite brought to earth at Taiga?

Tinkerbell, the Canary's Wild Cousin

MR GERALD SUMMERS, who is well known for his tame kestrel falcon, Cressida, which during the war was captured with him and stayed with him in enemy prison camps, has now another queer though faithful bird friend.

It is a serin, a little greenish



Serin Finch

bird, wild cousin of the canary, which he found almost dead with the cold and with some of its feathers missing near Rye, in

Sussex. It had apparently been blown there from the Continent. He took it home and it soon recovered and became so tame that it follows him everywhere.

He calls it Tinkerbell because of its musical twittering call, something like a canary's. Tinkerbell is quite free but refuses to leave her rescuer. She often visits the head office of the PDSA and amuses everyone by hopping around twittering happily, pecking up seed and bathing in a saucer of water quite unperturbed by the onlookers!

The serin is a finch. It is rare for one to be found in Britain, and then only on the South Coast, for in summer it does not care to come farther north than Central Europe, and it winters in Southern Europe and North Africa.

COMBINED OPERATIONS IN AFRICA?

TO secure better working of certain services in Kenya, Uganda, and Tanganyika, the Colonial Office have proposed to set up an East African High Commission and an East African Central Assembly, the Commission working under the assembly.

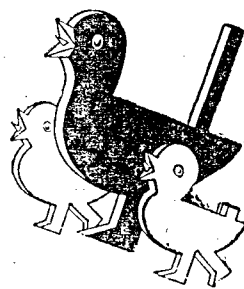
Some of the services with which these bodies would deal would be postal and telegraph services, customs and excise, railways, harbours, and, not least, the fight against locusts, in which they already combine.

It has been suggested that the Assembly of 23 members should be established at first for four years, at the end of which the new organisation could be reviewed. The proposals, issued as a White Paper, are intended merely as a basis for discussion by the countries concerned. Britain does not dictate.

There is little doubt, however, that "combined operations" in British East Africa would make for efficiency and, in the end, greater prosperity.

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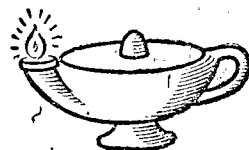


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Jacko Needs a Scarecrow



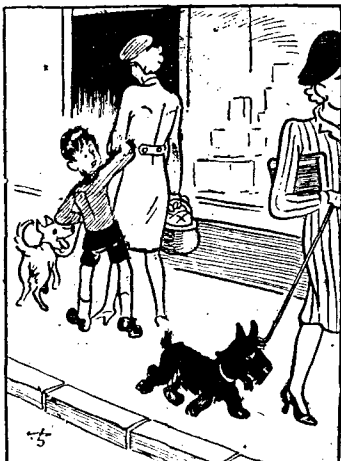
FATHER JACKO was hoping to sow his seeds but he had to go out. "Don't you worry," said Jacko, "Chimp and I will plant them." Father Jacko looked dubious, but finally consented; so Chimp made the holes with a pole and Jacko walked behind dropping the seeds. "We'll soon finish these," chuckled Jacko, and the birds were inclined to agree. As fast as Jacko dropped a seed they replanted it—but not in the ground.

THE BARRIER

"DID your watch stop when you dropped it?"

"Of course; you couldn't expect it to go through the floor."

RODDY



"Look, Mummy, that dog's got an austerity tail!"

Removing a Glass Stopper

A GLASS STOPPER which refuses to move with tapping can usually be eased out if a drop or two of oil is first put round the neck of the bottle and left for a time to soak in.

After this, gentle taps all round should do the trick.

ANAGRAM

I'm organs of hearing, it can't be denied;
Transpose and to autumn I'm often applied;
Remake me once more, and now you'll agree
To bring to ground level is what you will see.

Answer next week

Out of Place

A FARMER hired an Irishman to do odd jobs about the farm. On the afternoon of the first day he told the man to go round to the stables and see if the horse was ready in the trap.

Presently Paddy returned, and said: "No, sir, the horse is not in the trap, but he is standing between two poles quite near."

The BRAN TUB

HIS WEAKNESS

THERE was a bad scholar of Herm,
Whose spelling was very infirm,
For he wrote that "Fonetiks
Ar, of riting, the ethiks."
And used them throughout the whole term.

FARMER GRAY EXPLAINS

Old Brock on the prowl again. Beneath the great oak trees in Bluebell Wood, thousands of green leaves had pushed their pointed tips through the rich soil, promising a riot of bluebells in the future. In several places the earth had been disturbed.

"Looks as though your pigs have been rooting in here," remarked Don to Farmer Gray.

"Don't blame my pigs!" chuckled the farmer. "Old Brock is the culprit. He is hungry after his long winter fast, and bluebell bulbs are very much to his liking. Badgers will dig up and eat various kinds of roots and bulbs, sometimes wreaking great havoc in gardens."

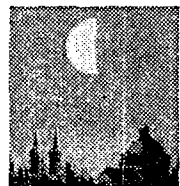
Kindergarten Arithmetic

"You tell me your uncle and aunt have come to stay with you, Jimmy, bringing your baby cousin. Now, how many visitors is that?"

"Two and one to carry."

Other Worlds

IN the evening Jupiter is low in the south-east, Saturn is in the south, and Uranus is in the west. In the morning Venus is in the south-east. The picture shows the moon as it may be seen at 7 a.m. (DBST) on April 13.



Children's Hour

BBC programmes from Wednesday April 9, to Tuesday, April 15.

WEDNESDAY, 5.0 Orlando and the Marmalade Cat (Part 4). 5.25 Another "Just-So" story.

THURSDAY, 5.0 Drowsy Dormouse, (Part 2). 5.15 The House of Arden (Part 4). North, 5.0 More Hints for Young Rugger Players. Scottish, 5.0 Once Upon a Time—in Glasgow. 5.15 The Wandering Otter (Part 1); a story; Tom McLaughlin (boy soprano).

FRIDAY, 5.0 Sunshine and Showers. North 5.0 Nature Quiz; Books worth Reading.

SATURDAY, 5.0 Story: The Three Semis (songs); We'll Wash Out Widow Twankey. West, 5.0 The Mystery of Desolate Grange.

SUNDAY, 5.0 The Wood That Would Not—a play.

MONDAY, 5.0 The House at Pooh Corner (Part 3). 5.25 Easter songs and carols. 5.40 Films Talk.

TUESDAY, 5.0 Vice-versa, a game on gramophone records. 5.25. Nature Parliament, with L. Hugh Newman and Peter Scott. Midland, 5.0 Children in Other Lands—Jamaica. Scottish, 5.0 The Wandering Otter (Part 2).

Cross Word Puzzle

Reading Across. 1 A coat for a house. 5 A flying beetle. 8 Long-eared quadruped. 9 This tree is associated with peace. 11 Nothing. 12 A vehicle for one carried by two. 13 Closely compacted. 15 To portion out. 18 Ship's company. 19 Pale. 21 A shop. 24 To place. 26 Strained to stiffness. 27 Exist. 28 To perceive. 29 Senior Ambassador at a Court.

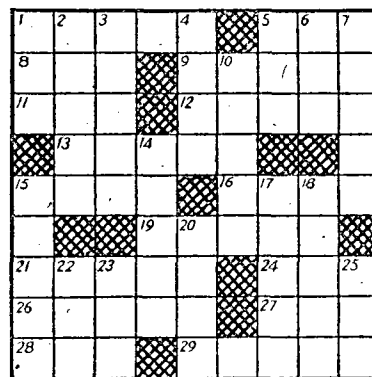
Reading Down. 1 Cooking vessel. 2 An actor's words, not for other performers to hear. 3 A little island. 4 To throw away lightly or carelessly. 5 Accomplished. 6 Eggs. 7 Restore to original state. 10 Worm formerly employed by doctors. 14 Approaches. 15 Prominent features of a ship. 17 To retaliate. 18 To accustom. 20 Source of a plant. 22 A collar starts from this. 23 Single unit. 25 Twice five.

Answer next week

Pithy Proverb

ONE volunteer is worth ten pressed men.

The Children's Newspaper, April 12, 1947



LAST WEEK'S ANSWERS

Enigma. Muscles (mussels)
Anagram. Dare, dear, read

HOW GOOD A DETECTIVE ARE YOU?

Trip up a trickster with the 3 MUSTARDEERS



"I'VE got a surprise for you," said Mother, opening the door of the lounge. "Here's your Father's Cousin George come to stay a few days. This is his first visit to England. He's lived in Africa all his life." "Jolly glad to see you," said Jim. "When did you arrive?" "I landed at Liverpool two days ago."

"What part of Africa do you come from?" said Roger. "Round about Kenya."

"That's on the Equator, isn't it?" said Roger. "Yes," said Cousin George, "and pretty hot, too! You can't do much in the daytime, but I've had some grand times hunting big game in the long summer evenings."

"Did you shoot any hippopotamus?" asked Mary. "Hippopotamus? No, I can't say I ever bagged one of those, but my native boys used to feed them with lumps of meat in the river below my bungalow."

"Well, come along, now," said Mother, "lunch is ready."

"I wonder if you'd mind cashing me a cheque for twenty pounds?" said Cousin George, the next morning. "I want to collect a suit I've had made for me, and I shan't be able to get up to my bank in the City for some days."

"It's a bit awkward with my husband away," said Mother; "but I think I can just manage it." "You needn't worry," said Roger, who was standing by the window. "Here is daddy now, coming up the path."

"What! back already?"

cried Mother. "That's good he'll be so glad to see Cousin George."

But Cousin George evidently wasn't glad to see Father. Grabbing the money that Mother was counting he made a dash for the french windows into the garden. But Jim was waiting for him and brought off a low tackle. With a curse, the man struggled free and made off through the side entrance. "Stop him," shouted Mother. "He's got my money." "It's all right, Mummy," said Mary, busily picking up pound notes, "he dropped it all when he fell."

"What made you suspect that he wasn't Cousin George?" said Superintendent Harris, when the police arrived. "Oh, three howling whoppers he told us," said Roger. "So we told him a whopper, too, about Father coming back unexpectedly, and he gave himself away."

"I wonder how he knew Father wasn't at home," said Mother, "and that he had a cousin in Africa whom I'd never seen?" "From your description," said the Superintendent, "he's quite a well-known confidence trickster, and these fellows have a way of finding out about their intended victims."

Well, our next intended victim," said the Three Mustardeers, "is a plate of your cheese sandwiches, Mummy, with plenty of mustard on them."

CAN YOU SPOT COUSIN GEORGE'S 3 WHOPPERS? (Answers below.)

1. If Cousin George had only been in England a few days he could not have had a hippopotamus in his house.

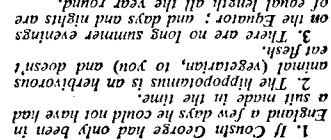
2. The hippopotamus is an herbivorous animal (vegetarian, if you'd) and doesn't make its home in the City.

3. There are no long summer evenings on the Equator; and days and nights are of equal length all the year round.

THE MUSTARDEERS' OATH

We will have Mustard whenever we can get it. Mustard makes good food taste better. We will have Mustard—

COLMAN'S MUSTARD



BEDTIME CORNER

SMALL THINGS

A FRIEND who had visited a famous sculptor's studio while the man was working on a great statue called again at the studio a week later, but could see no progress in the work.

"Have you been idle all the week?" he inquired.

"Oh, no!" replied the sculptor. "I have done quite a lot. I have softened this feature, retouched that part, given more expression to this lip, strengthened that muscle, and added energy to this limb."

"But these are mere trifles," said his friend.

"True; but remember, perfection is made up of trifles."

EASTER PARADE IN PIXIE LAND

